

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on April 21, 2004. Claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended, and claims 11-19 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-10 remain pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutledge et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,391,387 in view of Hynes et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,132,809. Claims 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutledge et al. and Hynes et al. in view of the Anorad Brochure. Lastly, claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 stand alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutledge et al. and Hynes et al., and further in view of Ng, U.S. Patent No. 5,820,623. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to more sharply define the present invention over the prior art of record and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In particular, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to recite that the support member is mounted for linear movement toward and away from the substrate "along a first axis". Each of independent claims 1 and 7

has further been amended to recite a liquid dispensing head operatively connected to the support member and capable of linear movement relative thereto "along a second axis parallel to the first axis" upon contact with the substrate. Support for these amendments is found at Page 10, lines 17-23 and Page 12, line 21 through Page 13, line 8, for example, of Applicant's disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements recited in each of independent claims 1 and 7, and claims depending therefrom, is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Examiner properly recognizes that Rutledge et al. fails to teach or suggest a linear movement for the dispensing head. Rather, Rutledge et al. discloses pivotal movement of the liquid dispensing head in the embodiment of Fig. 19. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Rutledge et al. does not disclose or suggest a support member mounted for linear movement toward and away from a substrate along a first axis and a liquid dispensing head operatively connected to the support member and capable of linear movement relative thereto along a second axis parallel to the first axis upon contact with the substrate as claimed by Applicant in each of independent claims 1 and 7.

In the conformal coating system of Hynes et al., the asserted "support member" (38) is mounted to move left and right along the Y axis and back and forth along the X axis (see Column 2, lines 20-35). The asserted "liquid dispensing head" (34, 44) is mounted for movement up and down along the Z axis relative to

the "support member" (38) which moves along the X and Y axes (see Column 2, lines 53-55). Consequently, the "liquid dispensing head" of Hynes et al. is not mounted for movement relative to the "support member" along an axis which is *parallel* to an axis of movement of the "support member" as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 7. Rather, the "liquid dispensing head" of Hynes et al. is mounted for movement relative to the "support member" along an axis which is *perpendicular* to the axis of movement of "support member" (the X and Y axes).

Moreover, each of Rutledge et al. and Hynes et al. taken alone, or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest a linear displacement sensor or linear encoder in a floating head liquid dispenser system which is capable of generating a signal that indicates a sensed displacement of the liquid dispensing head relative to the support member as claimed by Applicant.

Applicant submits that the hypothetical combination of Rutledge et al. and Hynes et al. fails to achieve Applicant's claimed invention as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 7 and the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn. Moreover, as claims 2-6 and 8-10 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well.

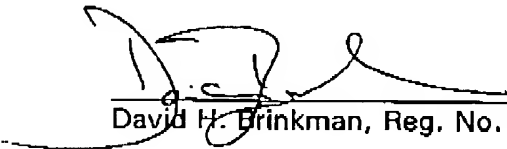
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, these may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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